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Alexander Dacunha shows two young visitors how paramedics monitor your heart for First Responders Day. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Marina sale stymies boaters' access to lakes

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A marina that has served a number of Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills lakefront property owners may be closing public access.

And the property owners on three lakes are pleading with Algonquin Highlands council to come to their aid.

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation, and trails manager, said the marina that had for many years served Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung and Boshkung lakes has been sold and will no longer provide services.

Essentially, he said, the marina-owned boat launch on Twelve Mile Lake in Minden Hills will no longer be available after it changes ownership. The sale is slated to close in June, Card said.

The current owners of the location have announced that spring boat installation will continue as planned in the coming weeks. But that means users will launch their boats without a plan as to how to remove them in the fall when new ownership sets up shop.

"The boat launch that's there (at the marina) is a deep water boat launch that facilitates the launching of the majority of the boats on the lakes," Card said. "It's a much deeper launch than what we offer at Highway 118."

The boat launch in question serves residents of both Minden Hills and Algonquin

see BOAT page 2

A young plane afficianado wears grandpa's pilot hat at the Stanhope Fly-In event on Saturday. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Two young Fly-In visitors pose by the Flying Monkey airplane.

Stanhope flies into spring

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen greeted visitors and sold hats to raise money for the Stanhope Airport on Saturday.

Boat launch loss is shared responsibility

from page 1

Highlands. There are about 365 properties in Algonquin Highlands and as many as 381 properties in Minden Hills.

Algonquin Highlands council has gotten a request from the lakes' property owners' associations to come up with a collaborative effort between them and both municipalities to resolve the issue.

Algonquin Highlands maintains a boat launch at Highway 118 on Little Boshkung Lake which provides access to those lakes. But that launch was designed for boats smaller than the common size of boat currently on the lake.

"Our launch there (at Highway 118) is really only designed for smaller aluminum styled boats because it is a shallow launch," Card said.

The lake associations have broached the idea to dredge the launch at Highway 118 to deepen it for larger boat launches. Card said that's something that would need to be assessed, but its success is questionable.

"Because the location is a large sandbar," he said. "The shallow area is what I would call a couple of football fields in size. It goes out a significant distance in every direction."

Another remedy would be to upgrade the launch, but there are no planned work there for the near future. It's lumped in with 14 other launches in the township's Asset Management Plan considered to be of fair condition. And it's behind four other launches considered to be of poor condition and of higher priority for work.

Another option, which has been discussed with Minden Hills officials, is an existing launch on a shoreline road allowance on Twelve Mile Lake Dam in Minden Hills. It's owned by Minden Hills but there is private property leading to the launch.

"So there are a number of steps that would need to be taken to go in that direction," Card said. "Just to find out what the legal implications are, the access possibilities are."

He said that's the most promising possibility to remedy the impending lack of launch access.

"Any upgrade of the (Highway) 118 site is a substantial ask," Mayor Liz Danielsen said. "Given the approvals required, the amount of work that's required, we don't see it as being something that's possible."

She said there's basically an even split of residents between both municipalities who are near the lakes. It's been said as many as 800 residents are affected by the loss of launch access, but she doesn't think that estimate is accurate.

"Whether it's 800 people who have boats that cannot access or would not be able to be taken out of the water in the fall, but probably a fair number of them are (affected)," Danielsen said.

She broached the possibility that something could be worked out with the resort's owners for joint management of waterfront access.

"Do we want to adjust priorities for projects that we've got?" she said.

Perhaps owners of deep-hulled boats should consider hiring a crane to remove their vessels in the fall, she said.

Councillor Lisa Barry suggested a partnership with Minden Hills be explored. Then again, maybe Minden Hills wouldn't mind throwing in on improving the Highway 118 launch.

She said the best option is an alternate site on Twelve Mile Lake Dam.

"That would be the best option," Danielsen said. "It would cost the least amount and work out well assuming there weren't too much of an uproar from neighbouring properties there."

Coun. Sabrina Richards asked if the possible new owners of the marina has been approached about the issue.

"We have not been able to find out who the new owner is," Danielsen said. "That seems to be a secret for some reason or another."

She said there's been no communication with the Minden Hills planning department that she's aware about a residential development there, as was suggested in real estate listings.

Richards wondered if there may be any other municipally-owned lengths of shoreline that could be developed into suitable water access.

"I don't believe we do have anything else," Danielsen said.

"I did touch base with the planner to see whether or not we may own a parcel somewhere and we don't on any of those lakes," Card said.

"Is there perhaps Crown land we could negotiate for?" Richards said.

"That is something that we could investigate whether there is any Crown land available that we could access," Danielsen said, and added that she believes it's a shared responsibility with Minden Hills.

"It's not our responsibility to completely resolve an issue that is actually in Minden Hills," Danielsen said, and added that there are many Algonquin Highlands taxpayers who are affected by the change in lake access. "That's where my idea (is) that there's shared responsibility."

"I just had the information from the planner that there is no Crown land there," said Angie Bird, the township's CAO.

Council decided to broach the possibility of collaboration with Minden Hills Township toward a possible shared solution to water access at Twelve Mile Dam. Council will also hire a consultant to look into the scope of work needed to make the Highway 118 site suitable for larger boats.

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Snowflake Meadows prepares for Magical Festival Fundraiser

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Snowflake Meadows takes in many different types of animals, with varying backgrounds, to try to find suitable homes for them to live their lives in. For information on adoptions, visit Snowflake Meadows on Facebook. /File photo

"Snowflake Meadows has always been a dream of mine since I was a little girl. It started after my parents unfortunately passed away," said Kristyn Begbie, founder of Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue.

From an early age, Begbie was bringing stray animals home.

"I was bullied in high school and elementary school. I found an emotional connection with bullied and neglected pets. I could get the love from them that I wouldn't get from others," said Begbie.

Begbie has fostered many animals including horses, dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, and even a kangaroo.

Soon after moving to Haliburton County, Begbie began rescuing animals from throughout the county and neighboring areas. Snowflake Meadows officially became a nonprofit charity in 2018. In addition to rescuing hundreds of animals, the nonprofit offers animal boarding services. Begbie enjoys educating others on responsible pet ownership.

"I came up with my motto," said Begbie. "Being a voice to the voiceless."

Begbie works with Empty Ontario Shelters, a group that works with Ontario animal shelters to bring dogs to rescues to reduce overcrowding and allow dogs a better chance at finding forever homes.

Last year was their busiest year yet, with around 260 dogs rescued, 20 budgies, and a pig, said Begbie.

"Everybody gets microchipped, spayed and/or neutered," said Begbie.

Currently, Snowflake Meadows provides love and shelter to 33 dogs, eight cats, four parrots, two rabbits, six pigs, three goats, two miniature horses, four sheep, seven horses, one turkey, one alpaca, and a plethora of chickens, says Begbie.

Snowflake Meadows is starting an annual fundraiser called Snowflake Meadows Magical Festival Fundraiser. The fundraiser is intended to raise money for the rescue to build a kennel on the property to rescue even more animals.

Bouncy castles, live music, pony rides, a petting zoo, a lure course for dogs, and a bunch of vendors are in store for guests at the Magical Festival Fundraiser, says Begbie.

Entry will be by donation and things like pony rides, the petting zoo, and other activities will require an additional donation.

Anyone that needs support, be it training or food, or if you need your dog to be housed somewhere temporarily before you can ensure a safe and happy home for your dog, to call the rescue, said Begbie.

The first annual Snowflake Meadows Magical Festival Fundraiser will take place on May 18 from 9 to 4 at the 1089 Ritchie Falls Road location in Minden.

Pets are welcome to attend, but must remain on a leash at all times for the safety of participants and the animals.

Snowflake Meadows Magical Festival Fundraiser's sponsors include Paulmac's Pets Minden, BALL Real Estate Inc., Francis Thomas Contracting, K9ine Security, Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd., Mulligans Pub & Patio, The Voima Group, Canadian Tire Minden, Pet Valu Haliburton, Coneybeare's Butcher Shop, Norm Barry Hot Tub & Cottage Maintenance, Glecoff's Family Store, Lana Harvey at Royal LePage, Boshkung Brewing Co., Kosy Korner, Highland Electric Heating and Air Conditioning Ltd., and Spot 97 Fitness.

"There's a lot of stuff happening," said Begbie. "I'm just hoping that everybody comes and has a good time. People are also welcome to bring apples and carrots for the horses if they would like."

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• Join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library to recognize International Museum Day for a special screening of Totem: The Return of the G'psgolox Pole (2003) at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-05-16-1700-Totem-The-Return-of-the-Gpsgolox-Pole-Documentary-
• Season opening of the Minden Hills Museum, Heritage Village and Nature's Place on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Enjoy a cup of tea and some Victorian-era refreshments in the dining room of Bowron House. Take a guided tour around the village or explore early settler games and craft demonstrations. Visit with the exotic animals from Browning Reptiles from 12 – 2 p.m. Admission is by donation. The event will run rain or shine. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-05-18-1000-Minden-Hills-Museum-Heritage-Village-and-Natures-P
• Connection and Response, an exhibit by conceptual artist Bruce Cull, will be on display until June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is by donation. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) LIFTED

Effective May 3, 2024, Spring Load Restrictions (half Loads) for Minden Hills have been lifted.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:
• **May 30** – Regular Council Meeting
• **June 13** – Regular Council Meeting
• **June 27** – Regular Council Meeting
• **July 25** – Regular Council Meeting
Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

WASTE DISPOSAL SITE SUMMER HOURS

Summer Hours are now in effect at our waste disposal sites (May 1 to September 30). A reminder that new hours started January 1, 2024. Please ask a Site Attendant during your next visit for a handout on the new site hours. The new site hours will be on your new waste disposal card that will be mailed with the final tax bills in June.

REPORTING ISSUES – ROADS / MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 from Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

CREATE AND PLAY – RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Create and Play JR (5-8 Years) and SR (9-12 Years) Saturdays starting May 4, 2024. Registration is now open. To register please visit www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

CALL FOR LOCHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for two volunteers to participate as members on the Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee for the remaining (2023-2026) term of Council.
If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating on this committee, please download and submit a completed Advisory Committee Application Form visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom for full details.

Application deadline is Tuesday, May 21, 2024 by 12:00 noon.
For an Application Form or for more information, please contact Vicki Bull at vbull@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 515 or Lisa Fitton at lfitton@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 527.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Detailed information to follow next week.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2024.If you have any questions, please contact: Vicki Bull, Clerk, 705-286-1260 Ext 515 E: vbull@mindenhills.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

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Francis Thomas Contracting celebrates 90th anniversary

by THOMAS SMITH
Editor

Keith Thomas is esctatic to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Francis Thomas Contracting. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Francis Thomas Contracting is celebrating their 90th anniversary this year. Keith Thomas, the current owner, became in charge after the business was succeeded by his grandfather, Francis Thomas.

"My grandfather Francis started the company back in 1934 out of necessity. He and another local guy worked for another contractor for the season and didn't get paid. Out of necessity, he started to do his own thing and therefore he was responsible for himself. Course back then, whatever made you money, made you money, so he did a lot of horse work and building and such," said Keith Thomas.

The original building still stands and is used to this day.

"He built this house, I think eight years after [starting the company]," said Thomas. Next door to the Francis Thomas office is Keith Thomas's great-great grandparent's house.

"I started in 1980, or 1981, somewhere around there, as a student," said Thomas.

"1984, I became full time. I basically shadowed my grandfather my whole life. I was like the son he never had, but he had three boys," said Thomas, with a laugh. "My dad was the oldest boy of his three sons."

"I might have been one of the first high school students to have a septic license," said Thomas with a laugh. "That was back when the Haliburton Health Unit actually did the training and the testing, so it's a long time ago."

"When I started working in 84' I was just learning the ropes and as time went on, started taking more and more of an interest in running the company. My grandmother had taken ill and that took a lot out of my grandfather."

Keith Thomas took a fondness for the family business since a young age. His father, Allen, and his uncles Garwood and Roger worked for the company, but did not take an interest in owning it.

"I pretty well lived with my grandfather. Not that I had any issue with my parents, but I was pretty much his shadow and I stuck with it. After being here for 10 years, I bought the company from him in 1994."

"Other than my kids, none of the original boys are here. My dad passed away in 1999 and Francis passed away in 2001."

Thomas's children Brittaney and Brandon currently work for the family business.

"It's nice to work at home. It's great to work in your own area and be able to walk around in public and not worry about somebody being angry at you," said Thomas. "It's great."

"Our business is evolving, as everything is evolving. Our main stay is site preparation and septics," said Thomas. "We definitely do the most of them as anybody around."

"We do full aggregate supply out of our granite quarry, or our own sand pits."

"When my grandfather was building houses, they were building a cottage a week. The season was mid-May to October because the weather was a lot more severe back in the day. Cottages were cottages, they were still pretty primitive cottages, but they were banging them up. Nowadays cottages are homes and the costs have gone silly," said Thomas.

"When grandpa was building and they were digging basements and such, they probably had maybe 10 or 12 people, now we are just kind of hitting up at 60," said Thomas.

"For a lot of years, my wife Susan and I ran the company where I was estimating, coordinating, and supervising the work. Now I have several different teams that do that work."

"Just the office alone is almost as many people as what we had in total back when I first started here," said Thomas with a laugh.

As we spoke, Thomas had four job sites being worked on. Concurrently, Thomas has several quarries that are excavating material in preparation for the summer.

"We are not officially starting work until next week. Next week we have pretty well everybody back, all hands on deck," said Thomas. "This is all due to the load restriction."

"When we do demolition of houses or cottages to build anew, we have the buildings checked for contaminated products like asbestos. Then we actually take the buildings right to the recyclers, we don't dump them in the local landfill, we take them right out of town," said Thomas. "So it doesn't put a burden on our local landfills."

Francis Thomas Contracting is also a contaminated soil cleanup company.

"In growing the company, one of the best things I did was hiring a full time controller. At the time, everybody was telling me that it didn't make sense, but it has proven that it did," said Thomas.

A controller follows the financial sides of the company as well as the legal side, said Thomas.

"In the septic world, there's stuff that the Ministry of the Environment requires and he keeps on top of the paperwork, making sure the consultants are doing what they are supposed to and stuff like that. It's quite a cost. You are paying a lot of money to having someone do that stuff full time."

"I try to treat everybody as family. I like that approach where you are not talking down to somebody. I always like to say I work with you, you don't work for me, you work with me," said Thomas.

"We are working on a succession plan now. I don't know how it is going to work. That's a very hard thing," said Thomas.

"I've got repeat customers that were working with Francis and my great grandfather years ago and we are still building with their family. It's nice to be able to consider us a friend as opposed to a contractor," said Thomas. "I'd like the company to keep going in the family."

"As we took on more work, we kept growing. It was gradual. We started doing MTO highway work in the 90s. The more we got into this work, that dictated bringing more and more people on board. We lost the MTO work in 2010." "So we ended up having to look for something for 15 people to do, so we got the other side of the business to take up the slack and it just kept rolling from there."

> "I've got repeat customers that were working with Francis and my great grandfather years ago and we are still building with their family.
>
> —KEITH THOMAS,
> OWNER OF FRANCIS THOMAS CONTRACTING

"What I really like seeing is turning any vacant, empty lot into a finished, working household or cottage. To be able to take it from its virgin to finish, I like that."

"Several times, I've had people say to me I can't envision that, but we're gonna go with your vision and when we are finished, they see the vision because it is finished," said Thomas.

Thomas takes great pride in the years that his family's business has been operating in Haliburton County.

"I don't like seeing false numbers. What I 'm saying there is I don't like people stretching the truth. I've got a legitimate 90 years and I'm proud of the 90 years. The company has been in the same location and it's still the same name. It's still the same company, but you've got company's claiming they are 50 years old when they are 10 years old. I don't like that."

Keith Thomas strives for what the sign says: a reputation built on trust.

"I like to think our customers trust us," said Thomas.

"I like to settle back into my excavator in my pit," said Thomas. "I generally, if I'm not in the office or doing owner stuff, I like playing-er, operating in our sandpits," says Thomas with a laugh.

AH washes its hands of boundary disputes

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands shed some legislative dead weight from its books and put boundary disputes to civil courts.

Council opted during its May 2 meeting to exempt the township from the Line Fences Act, one of the oldest pieces of provincial legislation.

By enacting an exemption, council removed the municipality from disputes between adjoining property owners respecting boundary fences. Boundary fence disputes will now be resolved civilly between landowners, rather than through the use of township resources.

Kristen Glass, the township's municipal law enforcement officer, said the township won't be required to be involved in settling such disputes.

"(Disputes) would generally resolve themselves either between the neighbours or they can deal with matters civilly on their own," she said.

The legislation, which dates back to 1834, provided a process to resolve fence disputes between owners of adjoining properties.

It's understood the original intent of the law was to settle disputes on rural or agricultural lands. Typically, these residents would have a significant amount of land and many kilometres of fencing to protect livestock.

The aged legislation allowed a property owner to apply to their respective township clerk to assign "fence viewers" to resolve a dispute respecting a boundary fence.

A fence viewer was someone appointed by council. Upon receiving an application, the clerk would have given notice to the applicable property owners that a "viewing" will take place.

Three fence viewers were required to be present at a viewing. After the viewing, the fence viewers issued a decision, known as an award, and allocated the costs split between the two owners. Typically, the allocation of costs would have been split in half, but fence viewers had the authority to vary if they believed an equal division of responsibility was unjust.

According to a report to council by Glass, "if a property owner wants to build a fence, the adjoining neighbour can be required by the fence viewers to share the cost of purchasing and installing a boundary fence even if the adjoining neighbour does not wish to erect a fence; the adjoining neighbour does not have the financial means to erect a fence; or there is a structurally-sound existing fence but the applicant wishes to replace it with a different type of fence."

If an owner refused to pay the award or failed to pay their share of the work, the other owner could have applied to the clerk to have the fence-viewers reconvene. If the fence-viewers were satisfied that an owner failed to obey the award, they were required to prepare a certificate of default.

Application would subsequently have been made to the clerk to have the amount collected in the same manner as taxes.

In her report, Glass said Ontario municipalities have been finding an increase in calls to resolve fence disputes, to which more and more municipalities are passing exemption bylaws to opt out of the Line Fences Act. The nearby Township of Minden Hills opted out of the legislation in 2023.

Boundary line fence disputes can become a drain on staff resources and it is not anticipated that the number of disputes will decline in the foreseeable future.

County and HHHS welcome new ED physician

The County of Haliburton and Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) are thrilled to welcome Dr. Ali Bohra, Emergency Medicine Specialist to the team.

Dr. Bohra, an emergency room specialist from the United Kingdom, responded to a physician recruitment advertisement last fall and visited the Haliburton Highlands in February with his spouse. Thanks to his visit, interactions with the team, and the warm welcome Dr. Bohra and his family experienced, he is excited to join HHHS in May.

"On behalf of The County of Haliburton, I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Bohra to our region and our local healthcare services team," said Liz Danielsen, Warden for Haliburton County. "The addition of Dr. Bohra will result in improved access to local health care for our residents and visitors to the County."

Although Dr. Bohra will not be practicing as a family physician at this time, his four-year commitment as an Emergency Department Physician will have a profound impact on the Highlands. His passion for healthcare, calm demeanor, and excitement to contribute positively to the community will no doubt leave a lasting impression.

Dr. Bohra said it was the welcoming attitude of the Haliburton Highlands that drew him to the position and inspired him.

"I think it's high time for me to serve the community with respect and dignity, the same way I would wish for myself," said Dr. Bohra.

This successful recruitment is the result of a team effort over many months between the Chief of Staff at HHHS; Dr. Keith Hay and The County's Physician Recruitment Coordinator; Wendy Welch. As we know, Physician recruitment is very challenging in this current competitive market, thus ensuring that we take a collaborative and innovative approach helps to bring incredible talent like Dr. Bohra to the Highlands.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Bohra to the HHHS team and to The County of Haliburton.

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Kids love trucks

KIDS OF all ages (and those that are still kids at heart) love machinery. Whether it is a large, shiny fire truck, sleek ambulance, speeding police car, massive bulldozer, or towering crane, kids are fascinated by the use of specialized machinery and vehicles.

This is something that I saw all last week and this weekend through the events like First Responders Day and the Stanhope Fly-In. I think that First Responders Day is an excellent idea. Across both Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills, kids were given the opportunity to look into the inner workings of emergency service vehicles and ask questions to first responders.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

It dawned on me that the event may be the first time some kids have been able to experience emergency vehicles up close. The next time these kids see an emergency vehicle may be a very scary event for them. I sincerely think that with the kindness shown by the first responders in answering kids' questions, showing them their equipment, and playing their sirens for them has developed a sense of trust in these kids. In fostering this trust, perhaps it will make a future emergency event in their life less scary.

Upon visiting the First Responders Day event, I spoke with a local paramedic who said that the ambulance is not very popular at these types of events.

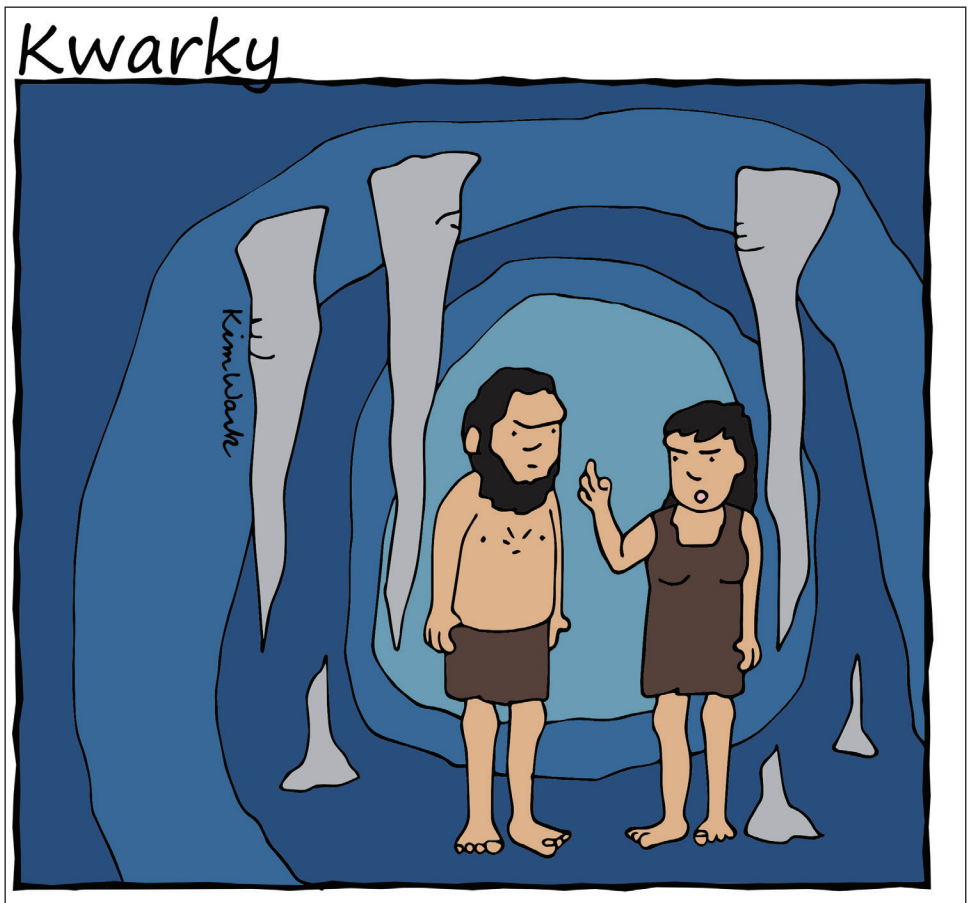
Boy, was he wrong.

Throughout the event, the ambulance was the most popular spectacle. It was heartwarming to see eight focused and interested kids crammed in the ambulance, learning about heart monitors, bandages, and how paramedics save lives. One mother told me that her son's biggest dream is to either become a paramedic or doctor. Perhaps First Responders Day has become a core memory for him and he will one day achieve his medical dreams (and come back to the county? Please?).

At the Stanhope Fly-In event on Saturday, I saw hundreds of people celebrating aviation in the county. One young visitor was wearing their grandfather's pilot hat to celebrate him at the Fly-In.

This past week, I spent hours interviewing Keith Thomas, owner of Francis Thomas Contracting who elucidated the ins and outs of operating his contracting business including several quarries in Algonquin Highlands. In conversation with Thomas, it is apparent to me that the child who loves heavy machinery and big shiny vehicles is still within him. Thomas enthusiastically toured me around to each property that Francis Thomas Contracting operates out of while explaining the uses of various excavation equipment and other tools I had never heard of. Thomas explained everything to me with a smile on his face and shared a secret with me–that despite loving what he does in the contracting business, he is the happiest when he is using his excavator in the waters at his sand quarry. To be close to nature, digging in sand and listening to music, gives him a feeling of serenity that is hard to put to words.

Perhaps it is the childlike wonder of using massive machinery, or maybe it is the primal desire to dig holes. Events like the Fly-In and First Responders day are for everyone.



"If we knock out these stalactites, it'll open up the space."

Beware the quick fish

CONTRARY TO what most normal people think, one of the worst fates that can befall upon any angler is catching a nice fish in the first few minutes of visiting a new place. Unfortunately, through no fault of my own, this happened to me on Saturday – and now I will be paying the price for the next couple of decades.

Here's how it went down.

We had hardly launched when a chunky, 15-inch brook trout hit the fly I was dragging behind the canoe. Even worse, I fought it well and landed it in short order.

If you have ever had something like this happen to you, you can probably guess what happened next. That's right, for the next five hours neither my fishing buddy nor I, both reasonably proficient anglers, never caught so much as a whiff of another fish.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Which leads me to the obvious conclusion that I caught the only fish in the lake.

Of course, a normal person would take that as a sign to never visit this lake again. But, sadly, we anglers are just not normal.

Even though we had no action for 299 minutes and only one brief minute of excitement, we don't for a moment believe that those 299 minutes are the norm. Instead, we have convinced ourselves that the fish catching moment was the norm and the unproductive time can be explained by hundreds of excuses – my favourite one being, "we caught the very end of the bite."

Because of this, we will very likely return to this lake several times this season in hopes of having a day that isn't as slow as we are.

This is because most anglers have very selective memories – and they are filled with recollections of the brief instances where a fish is caught rather than the hours in which they are not.

A lot of people think this is just blind optimism. But they are wrong. It is actually much worse. It is the fishing version of gullibility. It is gillibility.

That fish made a good first impression.

Now, like it or not, because of one brief positive experience where I outfished my buddy, I will be visiting that lake for the next 15 to 20 years and will refer to it as a good brook trout lake whenever anyone mentions it. And, because I caught a fish in the first few minutes of my initial visit, I do not ever expect to catch another one there.

Yet, if anyone asks about that lake, as an angler I am contractually obligated to tell them that the average size of fish there is about 15 inches.

You might be wondering how to remedy this. The answer is simple. If you visit a new body of water and catch a fish immediately, leave – or, at the very least, throw your gear overboard. Then, don't look back. Just remember the good times you had.

So, to summarize, on Saturday, I immediately caught a nice fish at this lake that is new to me, but the rest of the day was slow. Yet despite that, it's a pretty good place to fish. I'll visit it a few more times this spring and in the many years that follow. Why wouldn't I? Heck, the average size of brook trout there is 15 inches.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

A walk in the woods

IT'S BEEN a year since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared an end to the global COVID-19 emergency. Our world, however, still has far to go before celebrating a return to normal.

COVID-19 infections mostly are gone, but the disease's post-traumatic effects have become part of our collective anxieties. Worries about deadly viruses have joined global conflicts, racism, inflation, violence and climate-related disasters to deepen our collective anxiety about where the world is headed.

Psychologists say that over the long term these collective anxieties wear down the immune system, and increase the risk of digestive issues, heart disease, weight gain, and stroke. They are altering the mental and physical health of more and more people.

JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Statistics Canada has reported that one in four Canadians reported moderate to severe symptoms of anxiety, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. Coping with this stress requires finding ways of temporary escape. My favourite is walking in the forest.

The American Psychiatric Association reports studies that show forest walks decrease blood pressure and heart rate. One study found that compared to an urban walk, a leisurely forest walk led to 12 percent lower stress hormone levels.

The trees of the forests screen out the world's annoying noises, and the large numbers of people who make us feel crowded. They also are part of landscapes that offer us a wide range of physical activities.

Forest walking is believed to boost immune systems. The fresh forest air we breathe in contains phytoncides, chemicals that plants excrete to protect themselves against insects.

Medical authorities say that when we breathe in phytoncides our bodies bolster white blood cells called natural killer cells or NK cells. These cells are said to kill tumor- and virus-infected cells in our bodies.

Japanese researchers are exploring whether exposure to forests can help prevent certain types of cancer.

There are downsides to walking in the forest, the big one at this time of year being pollen. Pollen is a fertilizing powder containing a protein that irritates allergy sufferers.

Tree and plant pollen levels are high from April through June and give many people breathing problems.

Researchers say pollen levels have increased over the past 20 years in Canada because we are getting longer periods of warmer weather. That's a trend they expect to continue.

The most common pollen allergy symptoms are itchy throat, red, itchy, watery eyes, runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, wheezing or coughing.

Common trees like oak, maple, birch, alder and ash look innocent enough but cause allergy symptoms. So do evergreens like cedar and juniper.

We can lessen the chances of suffering pollen allergies by doing a few simple things. Pollen levels are at their peak in the early morning, so why not sleep in and take that forest hike in the afternoon?

We see a lot of forest hikers now wearing neck gaiters that can be pulled up over the mouth and nose. They might not provide the same filtration as manufactured masks but do stop some pollen from being breathed in.

Advanced woods walkers advise us to be careful with our hands, especially if we are prone to allergies. Pollen gets on your hands during time in the woods and if you touch your face, you likely are putting pollens into your respiratory system through the nose and mouth.

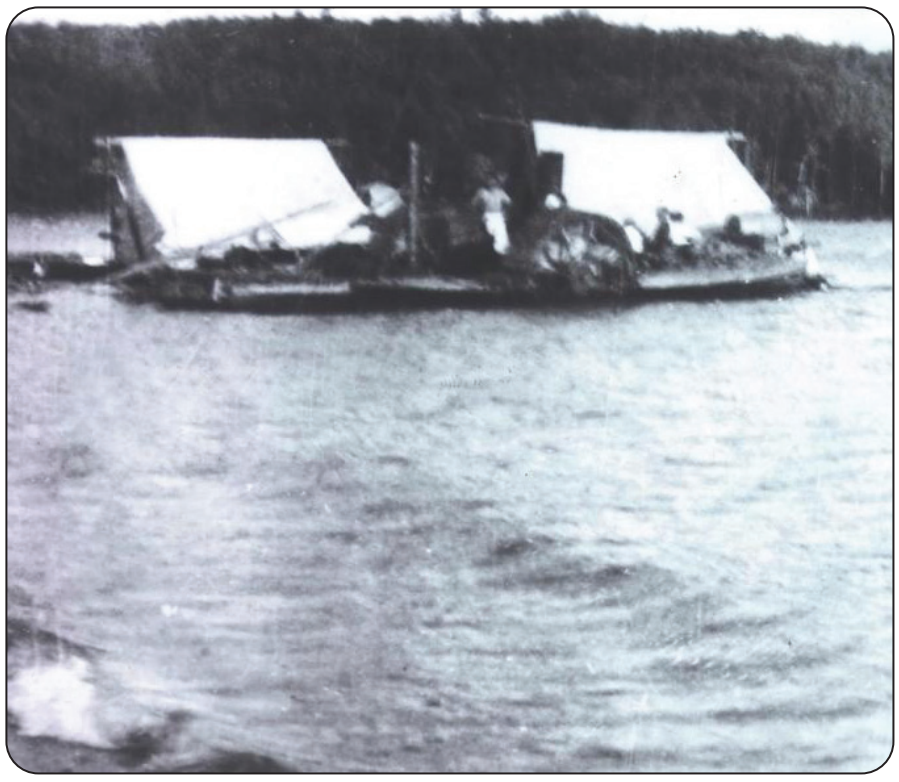
We are pretty much on our own when trying to determine high or low pollen count days. Environment Canada does not provide pollen level information in its weather forecasts. The Weather Network does for some areas.

We do know that pollen counts are higher when it's warm, dry, and windy and lower when it's cool and wet.

Thankfully we Canadians have plenty of forests in which to walk and we do a better job of protecting them than many other countries. We still knock down trees for agriculture and new housing developments but most of our forest loss is due to wildfires.

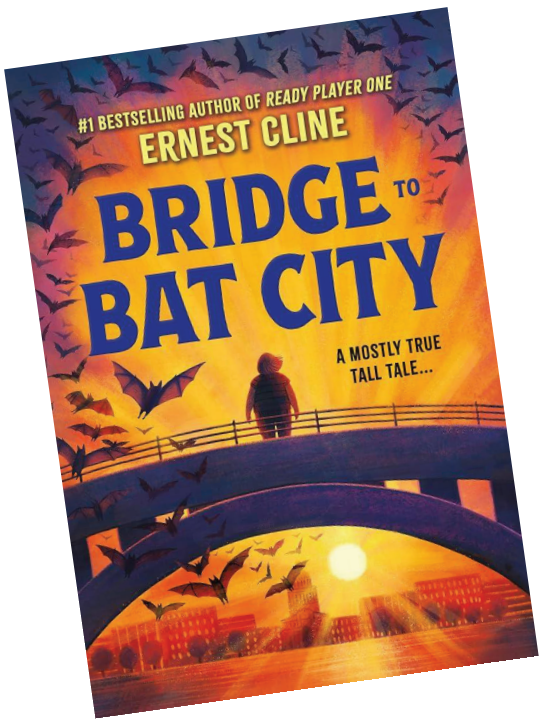
Last year we lost a record 8.6 million hectares of forest but more than 90 per cent of that was caused by fires. Federal records show that an average 2.3 million hectares of Canada's forests are burned by wildfires annually.

Minden Memories



This logging raft on Gull Lake carried a cookhouse. These rafts likely moved along with the lumberjacks from the Highlands to the mills to the south. /Photo courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week



After losing her mother, thirteen-year-old Opal moves in with her uncle Roscoe on the family farm. There, she bonds with Uncle Roscoe over music and befriends a group of orphaned, music-loving bats. But just as the farm is starting to feel like home, the bats' cave is destroyed by a big mining company with its sights set on the farmland next.

If Opal and the bats can fit in anywhere, it's the nearby city of Austin, home to their favorite music and a host of wonderfully eccentric characters. But with people afraid of the bats and determined to get rid of them, it'll take a whole lot of courage to prove that this is where the bats – and Opal – belong.

Recommended for ages eight and up, *Bridge to Bat City* by Ernest Cline is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

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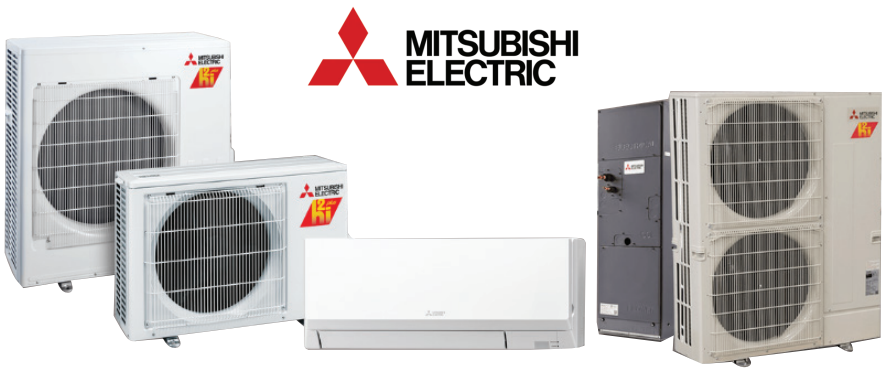

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Eligibility criteria enhancements

The government has simplified the eligibility criteria to make it easier for homeowners to qualify.

Specifically:

- The government has expanded the list of eligible heat pumps.
- Many air source and ground source heat pumps are now eligible.
- The government has increased the low-to-median income threshold to account for the latest inflation, which will result in qualifying more Canadian homeowners.
- Heat pumps range in cost from $12,000-$20,000 with the cost being offset by up to a $10,000 in grants.

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Members of Algonquin Highlands Fire Services welcomed the community to AHFS Station 80 on North Shore Road on the afternoon of May 1 for Haliburton County's First Responders Day. /Submiited by Algonquin Highlands

Tristan Humphries tries on some bunker gear and gets a feel for what it's like to be a volunteer firefighter as part of First Responders Day in Stanhope on May 1.

Community members got a chance to see AHFS trucks and equipment up close at Station 80 on North Shore Road.

Thank you first responders

Members of Minden Hills Fire Services and Haliburton County Paramedic Services welcomed community members on May 1 for Haliburton County's First Responder Day. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Fighting the fire

Volunteer firefighter Jeff Martin shows a young visitor how to use a fire hose.

Tickets and information available at
https://DominionHotelPub.ca
113 Main St., Minden (705) 286-6954

Mothering

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

BEING A mother is hard work; being a good one is almost an act of god. Being a mother often comes with being a daughter and a wife, each of which can also be hard work.

A delightful black-and-white film called *C'mon C'mon* (available on Gem for free or elsewhere for fee) captures all the elements of this big job. Bachelor Johnny (played with nuance by Joaquin Phoenix) steps in for a few days to care for 9-year-old Jesse (Woody Norman) while his mom Viv (Gaby Hoffman) heads out for a few days, which of course becomes longer, to settle her husband Paul into his new job and home in a nearby city. Paul has bipolar, Viv teaches writing at university, Johnny interviews kids in Detroit, New York and New Orleans about what they think of life, and Jesse does…hmm the mystery of being 9. By the end of this journey, which does as good a job as anything I've seen or read recently of exploring the agony and ecstasy of family relationships, Johnny and Viv can have a meeting of mind and heart over a visit gone wrong that caused a year of estrangement. Johnny, who didn't know then what he knows now, can properly apologize for criticizing how Viv cared for their mom as she died of dementia, and giving unsolicited advice about dumping her husband because of his crazy behaviour.

Nothing much left out, is there? The title derives from Jesse interviewing himself on his uncle's equipment, asking himself what he wants from life. Jesse brings the searing intelligence and candor he's displayed in various ways, not all charming, to this question. He concludes things don't always work out as planned, and you gotta just C'mon C'mon, a phrase that has been used with every possible emotional cadence in the course of the movie.

Of course life doesn't deliver as planned and of course we manage by putting one foot in front of the other as best we can. That pretty much sums up mothering as well. Johnny is humbled by his brief encounter with mothering; Viv is a steeped in humility and eloquent about the day-to-day of *C'mon C'mon.* Watch and wonder. Do the best you can. Forgive yourself and others. Find joy and beauty whenever and wherever. Celebrate every good thing. Open yourself to the experience of loving others: it will wound you grievously, but also infuse you with a richness of heart and soul not otherwise available.

Gem also has on offer three other films about mothering. *Unless* is based on Carol Shield's book about a daughter who inexplicably drops out of university to sit mutely outside Honest Ed's with a sign that says 'Goodness'. She won't return to the bosom of her family so they go to her. They sit with her until she has digested the incident that stole her words and her will to live 'normally'.

Trouble in the Garden follows a young Indigenous woman who is arrested while protesting the theft of native land in Caledon. She is bailed out by her long-estranged brother, a real estate agent who is selling that land to, among others, their parents. She is a Sixties Scoop adoptee whose birth story was left outside the home, with – in hindsight – predictable consequences. There are several variations of mothering in this movie: the adoptive mom who did as she was instructed, the birth mother whose daughter was wrested from her, the sister-in-law pregnant with her second child in an apparently text-book suburban life, and another more shocking variation that I will not divulge because it resonates only in context.

All the mothers (including Johnny) in these movies were well resourced, solidly middle-class people. In *Scarborough* we see how the hard job of mothering becomes ever more difficult in the face of prejudice and its predictable offspring – poverty, lack of access to resources, illness. All the badly behaving people in the film are white. They are not necessarily privileged in an economic sense -- although some are, but so are some of the racialized people – but merely by the colour of their skin. This makes the movie clunky but sends a strong message about social inclusion. The angriest and saddest people in the movie are white people who are marginalized. People of colour understand that they miss the mainstream because of something out of their control, and they find community in that shared exclusion. But white people have no one to blame but themselves, which tends to make them look for scapegoats. I don't think the truth is this black and white, but sometimes nuance fails to convict.

Four takes on mothering. What do we learn? It is never easy. It lasts a lifetime. It is best done in community. It is incredibly essential to the well-being of the whole. Let's valorize mothering.

Volunteering your time

People flocked from all over to visit the Volunteer Fair in Minden on Wednesday. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

OPEN HOUSE

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Join Me Saturday, May 11th from 10 AM to 1 PM

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Challenges, Solutions & Innovations

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9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
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Closing Remarks by Veronica Nelson, President & CEO, Haliburton Highlands Health Services

SPEAKER
Dr. Sandy Shamon, MD CCFP PC
Lecturer @ University of Toronto - Department of Family and Community Medicine
Assistant Adjunct Clinical Professor @ McMaster University - Division of Palliative Care
Board Director @ Ontario LTC Clinicians
Aging and dementia: how they challenge our ability to break down the barriers to care

SPEAKER
Dr Anthea Innes, PhD
Professor Health Aging and Society, Director Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging, Gilbrea Research Chair Aging and Mental Health
Rural dementia care: challenges and opportunities

SPEAKER
Dr. Judith Meijers, RN, PhD
Associate Professor at the Department of Health Services Research, Maastricht University
Living Well with Dementia on Green Care Farms: The Netherlands' Experience

SPEAKER
Dr. Karen Thompson, PhD
Program Coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SAFS) program & the inaugural Director of the Trent Research Farm
Trent University
Grounded in Soil: Planting early roots for life-long connection to the earth through food production

SPEAKER
Dr. Irene Hartigan, RN, PhD
Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing & Midwifery
University College Cork
Integrating Animal and Nature-Based Relationships into Namaste Care Activities: A Path to Holistic Enrichment

SPEAKER
Dr. Elizabeth Russell, PhD
Associate Professor of Psychology, Director of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society
Trent University
Intergenerational connection and rural age-friendly sustainability: A snapshot from Trent University's Rural Aging Research Program

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Second group of inductees to be recognized this month

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

There's something in the water in Haliburton County.

The Highlands have long been a place to foster excellent athletes who would go on to have successful careers on and off the ice, field, and court.

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame will celebrate its second group of inductees on Saturday, May 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the AJ LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

In total, six athletes, four builders, and two teams will be recognized for their outstanding achievements as athletes and coaches.

Teams

This year is the first year for an outstanding achievement award to be given to a local team.

The Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympics Ontario team will be awarded for outstanding achievement "for their team spirit and camaraderie," said a HH Sports Hall of Fame press release. "Athletes and volunteers benefit from the enhanced sense of belong that results from supporting and participating in meaningful sports activities.

The Red Wolves participate in bowling, curling, softball, shuffleboard, golf, and bocce.

Second, all members of the HHSS 1974 Redmen football team will be traveling far and wide to attend the ceremony to receive their award.

"The coaching staff, Bob Colliver and Gary Brohman, were intentional about building a football program that could succeed at the regional level. More important was their goal of creating opportunities for as many school athletes as possible.

The HHSS team headed to Lakefield College for the 1974 COSSA Single A championship game.

The Redmen came home with a 24 to 16 win.

"Their success paved the way for an era of distinction for the HHSS football program, now called the Red Hawks, which accumulated many more championships in coming years."

Athletes

Kate Campbell, Scott LaRue, Colin Newell, Greg Newell, Mark Robinson, and Gary Vasey will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.

Kate Campbell was awarded the first and only HHSS gold medal at the 1998 OFSAA championship in the 300 metre hurdles. The track star is now a producer, writer, and director.

Scott LaRue had an outstanding hockey career, and was first scouted by the Montreal Canadiens and next the Detroit Red Wings.

He was star defenceman for Woodbridge, Weston, and then Whitby Dunlops.

He played in exhibition games alongside Bobby Orr, and traveled to France to play professional hockey in Europe.

After returning home, he managed the Haliburton Huskies with his father.

Colin and Greg Newell are each receiving an athlete award for baseball.

Greg traveled all over North America while playing in the Ontario Amateur Softball Association, International Softball Congress, Canadian and Eastern Canadian,

> "Their success paved the way for an era of distinction for the HHSS football program, now called the Red Hawks."

and North American Fastpitch Association Championships.

Colin played for the LSC league in the 1990s for clubs including Owen Sound, Oshawa, Scarborough, and Bracebridge, receiving numerous awards like his brother.

"The Newell Family lived and breathed fastpitch." Both credit their parents for sparking a love for the game through a baseball diamond in their Gelert backyard as kids.

Mark Robinson was selected as Rookie of the Year for the Queen's University Golden Gaels football team.

The team won the Vanier Cup while he controlled the line of scrimmage.

Gary Vasey played for the Minden Monarch hockey team in 1950, helping them win the Ontario Rural Hockey Association C Championships.

He played junior hockey in Lindsay, Scarborough Rangers and Bradford's Intermediate B team, winning a number of senior championships.

He became owner, general manager and coach of the Bradford Vasey Juniors.

Builders

Gary Brohman, Jane Heyes, Ken Rosenberg, and Mark Schell Sr. will all be given the builder award.

Gary Brohman is a well-known name in the Highlands. He had a long career in education at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, volunteering to coach hockey, basketball, and track and field, fostering the careers of countless athletes and sports programs.

The HHSS school field is named the Gary Brohman Athletic Field after him.

Jane Heyes was coordinator of the Haliburton Highlands Jackrabbit Cross Country Ski program for 20 years.

Many graduates of the program went on to compete at OFSAA and varsity levels in cross country skiing. The program continues to flourish today.

Ken Rosenberg competed in golf tournaments throughout Ontario at championship levels.

He acquired his teaching certificate from the Canadian Golf Teachers Association and spent much of his time in the Highlands helping golfers to improve their game.

Mark Schell Sr. is remembered for his lifelong commitment to outdoor and sport programs for Haliburton County youth.

He was a member of the Haliburton Huskies, and went on to coach local teams. He was also a baseball player and Boy Scout leader.

All are welcome at the 2024 Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame ceremony to recognize these outstanding figures in the world of Haliburton Highlands sports.

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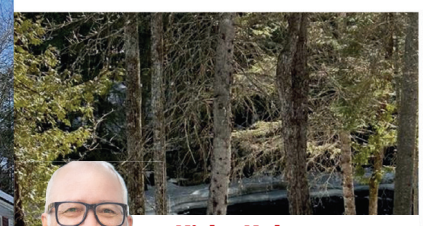

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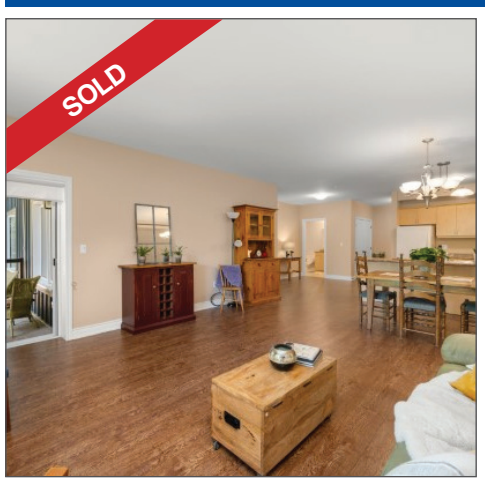
This enchanting property offers over 1200 feet of river frontage!!!
44 acres of picturesque wilderness!!!
3+ large bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

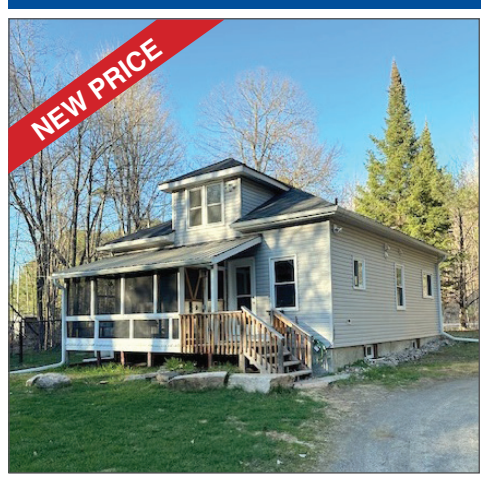
SPACIOUS CONDO



Spacious 1227 sq. ft, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Conveniently located in the Heart of Haliburton. Private lake view balcony! Inground heated garage with parking spot, storage locker. foyer, utility/in-suite laundry. Open concept kitchen/eating/living room. This unit has radiant in-floor heating, ICF construction, HRV system, ductless A/C.

Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

THREE BEDROOM HOME NORTH OF CARNARVON



- Easy Access at the corner of Highway 35
- Large 1 Acre Level Lot
- Loads of Parking for the RV, Trailers, Toys

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

Bookapalooza

The international best-selling author Linwood Barclay headlines this year's Bookapalooza, on Saturday, July 13 at the Minden Community Center. Tickets are on sale now!

Bookapalooza celebrates the rich literary life of the Highlands, giving readers a chance to meet dozens of local authors. It's an experience you can't find anywhere else and a book lover's dream! The event is generously sponsored by Parker Pad and Printing.

Linwood Barclay's best-selling thrillers include *Broken Promise*, *The Lie Maker*, and his new release, *I Will Ruin You*. He's also the author of two thrillers for younger readers, *Chase* and *Escape*. He has more than seven million copies in print. Winners of the guess the author contest are Sarah from Toronto and Victoria from Haliburton.

Bookapalooza begins at noon with an exhibit hall filled with dozens of local authors. Admission to the exhibit hall is free. (Want to become an exhibitor? Register.)

A Conversation with Linwood Barclay happens at 3 p.m., followed by a book signing. Early bird tickets (until July 1) are $25. Children under 13 are free when accompanied by an adult.

The Dominion Hotel, Minden, is sponsoring a special Reception and Dinner with Linwood Barclay at 6 p.m.. This will give readers and fans an opportunity for a more intimate encounter with the author. Early bird tickets are $60, or $75 for the two tickets (Conversation and Dinner) combined.

Submitted

Archie Stouffer Elementary School brought Coby's Anti-Bullying Magic Show to present to kids on Friday May 3. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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Saturday, May 18
Join us At Our Model Home Location in Minden to view our Highland Vista. See how you can Secure your home Delivered in 2024 at 2023 Pricing!
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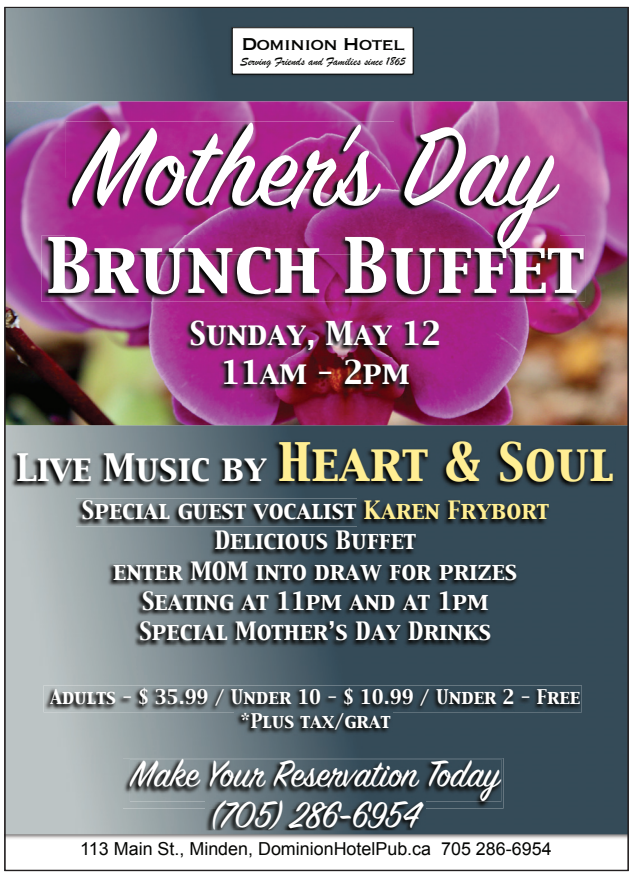
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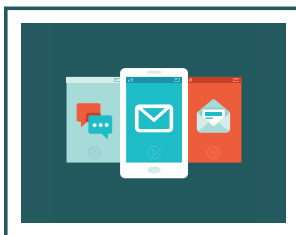

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to thomas@haliburtonpress.com

SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	8	5	1	6	7	3	9	4
9	6	1	3	5	4	2	7	8
3	4	7	8	9	2	1	5	6
7	3	6	5	8	9	4	2	1
4	2	9	7	1	6	5	8	3
1	5	8	2	4	3	7	6	9
8	1	2	6	3	5	9	4	7
6	7	4	9	2	1	8	3	5
5	9	3	4	7	8	6	1	2

Anti-Bullying Magic

Coby is a motivational speaker that teaches kids what it is like being bullied, from the perspective of the victims. The show is intended for kids to identify when bullying is happening and make students feel good about themselves. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

nomi
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Feelin' footy

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls soccer team put up a fierce fight on their home field ending in a win against IE Weldon Secondary School from Lindsay on Wednesday, May 1. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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cell: 705.457.0364

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Scottish Country Dancing
When: Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St.
You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners are always welcome, no partner required. Bring soft soled indoor shoes. RSVP to haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com byTuesday evening. $5 per person, per evening. to host the new pollinator plants.

Haliburton Sculpture Exhibition Public Unveiling and Walking Tour
When: Wednesday, May 8, 2 p.m.
Where: Rails End Gallery, 23 St.
Join us at the Rails End Gallery for a walking tour of downtown Haliburton to see the sculptures and meet the artists.

Grounds for Goodness Community Arts Project
When: May 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Where: Rails End Gallery,
23 York Street Haliburton
Project Introduction with Ruth Howard, lead Artist. Learn more about this project, the places it's been and the people who have been involved at www.groundsforgoodness.ca. All are welcome to attend. Free.

Grounds For Goodness
When: May 10 and 11, 12 - 4 p.m.
Where: Rails End Gallery, 23 York Street Haliburton
Rails End Gallery invites you to join Grounds for Goodness for any or all workshops, storytelling sessions, and collaborative art-making activities inviting you to reflect on moments of goodness in your life and transform these stories into living works of art. Grounds for Goodness is an evolving community arts project. Open to adults, teens and children (with caregiver) for drop in art making and facilitated activities. All are welcome. Free

Spring Wildflowers and Wild Leeks
When: May 11, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Where: Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, 1118 Gould Crossing Rd.
Early spring plants are a beautiful and welcome sign that the seasons are changing! Join Belinda Gallagher and Michele Swyer to explore the woods and fields of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. We'll hike approximately 2-3km of trails, learn about the sustainable harvesting of leeks, and observe many spring wildflowers. Admission by donation. Registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700.

Amazing Apple Tarts
When: May 11 and 12
Where: Glass Eagle Studios,
2801 Blairhampton Rd
Join us May 11th and 12th at Glass Eagle Studios for the 'Apple Blossom Tour' event. Amazing Apple Tarts from our outdoor wood oven will be available by donation. The gardens and glass studio will be open. For more information visit www.glasseaglestudios.wordpress.com.

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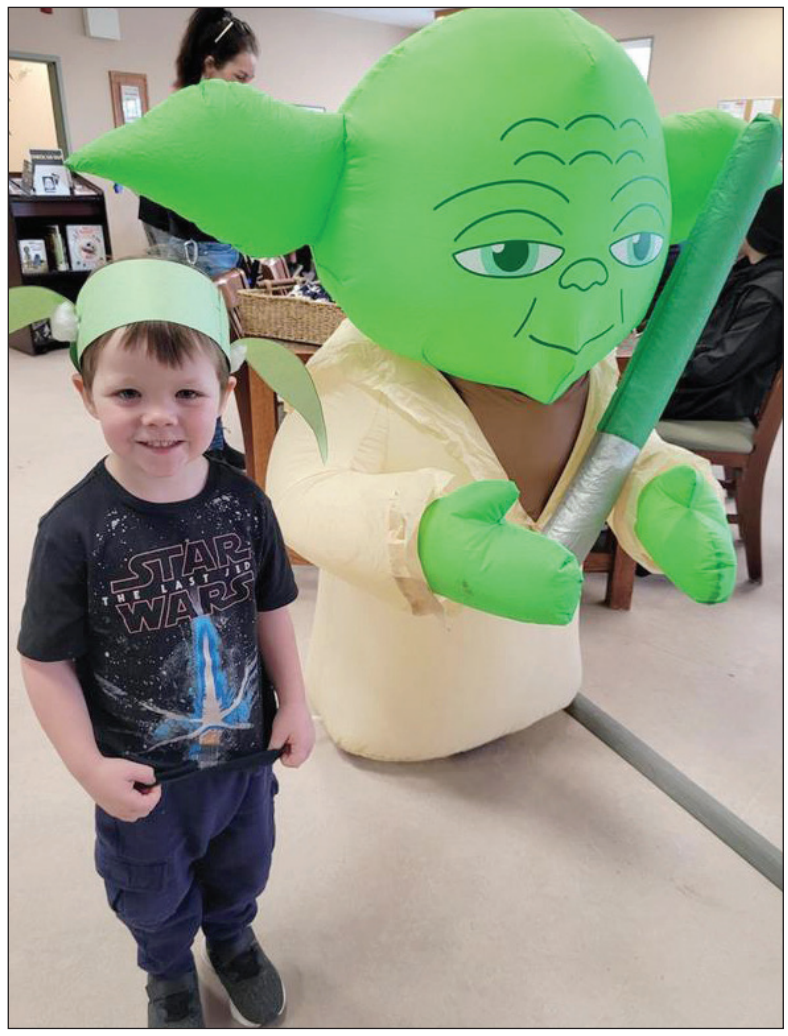
The Code a Droid station at the May the 4th Star Wars party at Minden Hills Library was a big success. / Submitted

May the 4th be with you

The Minden Hills branch of Haliburton County Public Library celebrated May the 4th with a Star Wars Party. /Submitted



THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sales Rules

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on June 12, 2024, at the Township Office.

Legal Description:

1. **PT LT 4 CON A MINDEN AS IN H258825; MINDEN HILLS.**
BEING ALL OF PIN 39196-0090 (LT).
Roll # 46 16 033 000 40300 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 144 Bobcaygeon Rd, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: $136,830.95

2. **PT LT 21 CON 10 MINDEN PT 2 19R3430; S/T EXECUTION 05-0000339, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 92-0001067, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 95-0000874, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 97-0000340, IF ENFORCEABLE; MINDEN HILLS. BEING ALL OF PIN 39191-0006 (LT).**
Roll # 46 16 032 000 61500 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 1040 Soyers Lake Road, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: $17,279.50

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001, and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act.

Further information about this matter is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/bid-opportunities.aspx, or you may contact:

Sherry Mulholland, Deputy Treasurer
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359, MINDEN, Ontario, K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1260, Ext. 501
Email: smulholland@mindenhills.ca
Township website: www.mindenhills.ca

Snapped in Minden

A snapping turtle was spotted at the Minden Boardwalk. /Photo by Irv Handler

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cell: 705.457.0364

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SUDOKU

		5			7			4
						2		
3						1		6
			5					
		9						3
			2	4	3		6	
8						9		
	7		9	2	1			5
		3			8		1	

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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Answers on page 14

SUMMER GUIDE MAGAZINE IS COMING SOON!

To see your not-for-profit or community event listed at no charge in our Summer Guide Magazine, send an email to
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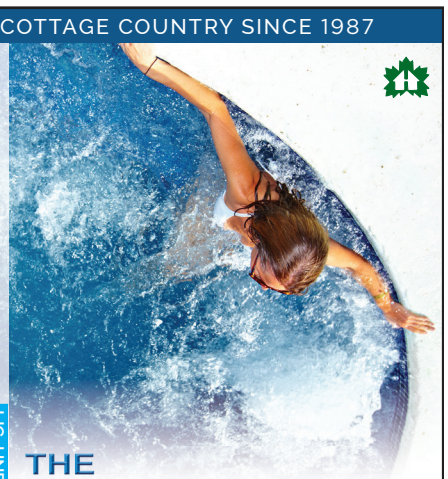

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Fundraising Yard Sale. Saturday May 18, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. West Guilford Baptist Church, 1063 Nila Road. Hot dogs and pop will also be sold. All proceeds to the Haliburton 4C's Food Bank.

230 MOVING SALE

Moving Sale, 50 Anson St., Minden, Date: Saturday, May 11, Time: 8 am to 5 pm, Household Items, Tools, Lots of great stuff and great bargains!

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Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

protecting the land we love for future generations

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust invites you to join us at our Annual General Meeting!

The meeting will be held using Zoom on Monday, June 24th, 2024 @ 7:00pm.

You must register at haliburtonlandtrust.ca to receive login information and meeting details.

Members in good standing 30 days prior may vote. To renew your membership, become a member, or register, visit our website.

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650 OBITUARIES

BAKER, R. Dennis

Service details: A Graveside Service for Dennis will be held on Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 at 2: 00 pm. at the Evergreen Cemetery, 1216 Harburn Road, Haliburton.

Richard Dennis Baker passed away on January 10, 2024 at Riverview Manor, Peterborough in his 80th year. Dennis was the beloved husband of Shirley Jean (nee Roberts). Loving father of Andrew (Carly) and the late Karissa "Kari" Roman (Julio). He was the proud grandfather of Finnigan, Ruby, Gabriel and Elsa. Dear brother of Doris Faris and the late Bradley Baker (Fiona). Predeceased by his parents Dean and Hazel Baker. Lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Dennis was raised in Peterborough and spent much of his time helping his relatives on their farms in the Campbellford area. Time spent with family was greatly cherished by Dennis, and he took great pleasure in gathering with family for reunions, special occasions and everyday visits.

Dennis and Shirley Jean met, married, and raised their two children in Haliburton. Dennis was an amazing teacher for over 30 years, with the majority of his career spent with the Haliburton Board of Education. He took great happiness and pride in his students' successes, both in and outside the classroom.

He was an active member of his community as a scout leader for many years, a judge for Remembrance Day projects and a floor hockey coach. Dennis helped plan and organize special events for the Legion, a community organization that Dennis held dear. Bingo and Sunday morning breakfasts with old friends were some of Dennis' most cherished moments.

In lieu of flowers, and in honour of Dennis' memory, the family is requesting donations to the Alzheimer Society or charity of your choice. Memories and condolences can be shared at www.comstockkaye.com.

645 CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life- The Dillon family would like to thank all the people that have reached out to us through telephone calls and cards following Bill's passing. Bill and Donna had been married for 63 years, and have 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. The family wish to announce a celebration of life is being held for Bill on Saturday May 11 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside Street.

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Minden welcomes 53 new VIPs

An unique graduation ceremony took place at the Archie Stouffer Elementary School on Wednesday evening (April 18) as the students in grade six received their diplomas for the V.I.P. Program.

Principal Stuart Baker who opened the ceremony explained to the near capacity audience that the "Values Influences and Peers" program was a pilot project initiated by the Haliburton Board of Education and the Minden Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police. He noted that the project was aimed at the grade six students because "we place a lot of emphasis on guidance programs in the early years".

Constable Gary Chapman, who has participated in the project since its inception, explained to the assembly that the program was begun two years ago by an OPP constable and a school principal in Thunder Bay. The guidance program was modelled after a project called Operation Awareness that was being taught in the schools in Duluth, Minnesota.

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Members of the Archie Stouffer VIP class proudly display their new T-shirts. Instructors seen at the rear, Glen Carter, left and Constable Gary Chapman, also received shirts with their own special notations.

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County historical society formed

A county-wide historical society has been formed. The organization came into being Thursday evening at a special meeting held at the Anson, Hindon and Minden council chambers.

The first order of business for the organization was the selection of a board of directors. Frank Wallace of Minden was chosen as the group's chairman. Other members of the board included Dr. Carl Hartwick, Ross Carver, Roy Windover, Bob Davis, Bob Wiltshire and Godfrey Tyler. Stanhope Reeve Harry Davis, who has spearheaded the formation of the society, noted that the executive committee did not include any elected politicians in an effort to maintain a non-partisan outlook on projects.

The main purpose behind the formation of the society was to provide a lobby group for the Kanawa International Canoe Museum. Over the past few years, it had been suggested that the unique collection of canoes and watercraft might be moved out of the county. Mr. Davis suggested that by forming the society, the county would be able to mount an organized campaign to ensure the facility remains in this area.

Haliburton County Warden and Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Lyle McKnight, who will serve as an ex officio member of the society, invited the new executive to make a presentation to the county councillors. He suggested the group should appear before the council to explain the purpose of the organization and to gain the support of all municipalities in the county.

The invitation was accepted by the new society's directors, with Roy Windover being selected to make the presentation to the county meeting.

Before the meeting ended, Gary Kenney, who is familiar with log construction, offered an analysis of the present structure. He pointed out that the structure, though sound, is deficient in a number of areas. Kenney noted that the building is not insulated and that some of the logs used in the original construction have suffered deterioration. A portion of the rear section of the museum is uncompleted.

When asked if it would be possible to move the building to another location, Kenney said it would be a costly undertaking. He suggested that the cost would be so high as to make it economically unfeasible. He also suggested that considering the size and number of exhibits currently in the collection, any new structure would have to be 50% larger than the present building.

One member of the audience suggested that perhaps the comments and questions were somewhat premature, since ownership of the collection and the buildings remains with its founder, Kirk Wipper. It was suggested that before any decisions or discussion on the future of the museum could be carried out in a meaningful way, that Mr.

(more on page 2)

Christians gathered at Skyline Park in Haliburton at 7 o'clock Sunday morning for a special Easter "Sonrise Service." The worshippers took part in the ecumenical service led by ministers of various denominations in the community.

Change clocks this weekend

Spring forward and fall back ... that is the best way to remember which way to move your clocks and watches this weekend as the province changes to Daylight Saving Time.

Readers are reminded to move their clocks ahead one hour Saturday night before retiring. While the change will mean it will be darker during the early hours of the morning, the benefit comes after supper, as an extra hour of daylight will be available for outdoor activities.

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Teeny Tiny Summit

When: June 6, 2024, 9-3pm

Where: Minden Community Centre

Why: Interested in economic development in small communities? This event is your chance to learn from expert volunteers and active community leaders who share a passion for Teeny Tiny places.

To register visit: